

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 3, Folder 17

May 19, 1960 -
September 29, 1960

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 28, 1960

Dear Howard:

Having finally returned to Newport last Friday, I was very happy to receive your letter dated Easter 1960 telling me about your problems, your family and so forth. I want to discuss them, but before doing so I would rather make one or two comments about some of your friends.

In the first place, I want to say that I met Harry and Francis Gimber out in Los Angeles. They took me to dinner at a beef house which I enjoyed thoroughly. They looked very well and Harry seems to be very pleased with his college work. He wants to teach somewhere but exactly where I don't know nor am I sure of the type of college he might best fit in. We naturally spoke about you.

Secondly, I want to speak about Roy Belcher. He is doing very well on the FDR and writes me that the Captain has given him very fine reports. This was to have been expected. I am now going to write to the Captain and find out what he would like me to do in this matter. I can write a letter to the Selection Board which I shall be glad to do, but Admiral Ingersoll feels that the War College reports were all tops and an additional letter of this kind might confuse the issue. I think what the Admiral means is it would be much better if the letter came from his own Admiral. I had some papers given to me by BuPers on this case and I am going to tell you something here that is in strict confidence—Roy's Fitness Reports placed him in the top 6% of his group. BuPers were as astonished as I was. So as you see, his problem clearly was no sea duty in recent years.

I haven't looked into your case but I hope that you will ensure that such a condition does not apply to you. Everyone recognizes that you are superior in mental power—you really have a fine brain and a fine understanding of things. My big problem with you, as you know and it was this which caused you to refer to me as an "old goat", was to keep you on the basic problem which was the solution of the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

In this connection, there is a move afoot and has been underway for some time to reopen this study, if possible, under a

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foundation. I was going to take it up with Burke when I was in Washington last week but this Russian mess caused me to delay it. People behind this are Admirals Nimitz, Spruance, Kincaid, Carney, and last, but not least, Admiral Eller himself, the Historian of the Navy. You will be interested to know that Admiral Kincaid told Vice Admiral Kauffman that he was very impressed with the way I had handled his decisions at Leyte, insofar as we had gone. Since I got the same thing out of Admiral Carney, I feel sure that we are right. What a shame to stop it!

The Clambake Club has reopened and is doing very well. I have been a governor for one year and privately they are trying to make me president for the next couple of years. This I have steadfastly opposed. If I get drafted, I may take it but I am not a volunteer nor am I receptive. The reasons are simple — the Club is run by Newporters and the Summer Colonists who feel that everything that they approve of is good and anything they don't approve of is bad and, therefore, problems arise even among themselves. I am not inclined to jump into the middle because knowing myself, if I do, I won't put up with it. If I run it, I run it. It would be a great honor and I recognize that fact. I am the first Naval Officer in the entire history of the Clambake Club that was invited to be a governor and certainly should I become president, I would be the only one in history. However, I am not trying to build history. I have been trying to analyze it for its place in the future.

And now to your letter. I know exactly what you are talking about in your ASW business. It is a recognition of the fact that we are essentially doers and not thinkers that caused me at an early age to become highly interested in the development of the mind and in the understanding of the many problems which might be placed before me. I studied hard whenever I could—people always thought that I was playing. Actually, the reasons I left my ship were not to play but, being a strict disciplinarian, I felt it was better for my officers and, later on, my Staff to have freedom of the boss for a day or so.

In this connection, Howard^{YEAGER} said to me the other day in Washington that he used to smile when I left the ship on a weekend because he thought I was up to no good. He then said that when I did return on a Monday morning or late Sunday night, that he felt that I had the look of a tomcat who had a most satisfactory weekend. Since he only said this the other day, I was happy to sit down and tell him the truth. This is the way traditions are made. Without the facts, people cook up imaginations of what they would be doing under similar conditions and attach that to the unwitting victim.

What you have written to me, I have heard repeatedly from other sources but almost entirely always from officers and even men

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who have been in my section. And we endeavored to appraise commanders decisions based on all of the facts available. We learned to develop a logical reasoning process and we learned quickly to assess decisions because we were going to have to execute them.

I had a Chief Quartermaster, who went on one of the big carriers, from my office write me that he didn't feel that most of the top officers really realized what their objective was and he would ask them as best he could. Finally, their lack of appreciation so bothered him that he wrote me asking if I could have him transferred. I wrote back and told him that if he had the vision and understanding to appreciate this weakness, I wished to leave him on board because his presence there would, in the end, pay dividends to the ship and to his country. This did not impress him but I think he stayed there. Anyway, the ship did fine.

I am about to rewrite my article in the Collier's Encyclopedia on Naval Strategy. They only gave me about 300 words. They now wish to revise it and I asked for 1000 words but they have given me 900. We want to discuss the Polaris and other factors which modern warfare is producing on Naval Strategy. Your letter touched on this so I am asking you now—will you sit down and write me some of your thoughts regarding the phases of the Naval Strategy with which you are more closely associated. I was quite interested in your discussion of the necessity for knowing at all times the location of enemy submarines and and, even more than that, your statement that this was feasible.

In the old days we accomplished complete surveillance by destroying the enemy fleet or blockading it in its harbors. Today, as you point out, with the submarine this may be difficult to do. I think that submarines perhaps can be mined in their harbors if we know where they are, but many will get to sea. In this connection, I feel that we are worse off than the Russians because once they have the Polaris missile and a control system equal to ours, it would be easy for them, once they are at sea, to attack our mainland than it is for us to attack theirs. I have pointed out more than once that were I in command of the Russian submarines, I could make it pretty difficult for any Russian enemy by using the submarines as animated mine fields and employing them in a somewhat fanlike way to prevent the approach of Polaris submarines toward my homeland. Our problem is much greater and you have touched on a definite solution. Tell me more. In so doing, please indicate how much of what you say can be used by me in writing an article for the Encyclopedia.

I would like to suggest that in your work there, you endeavor to use your brains as best you can but I wouldn't battle too hard right now to put across your ideas. You will be coming up for Captain presently and you should make it but you won't if you irritate people in power. I never was particularly tactful in matters

of this kind because I wasn't built that way, but you can be very tactful and I think you can get your ideas across without losing your head in its effort.

I am awfully glad that your family is fine. I always liked them and I am glad now that your children are equally so. With best wishes from the foreman of the salt mine I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Commander Howard Cole, USN
3341 Riviera Drive
Key West, Florida

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 28, 1960

Dear Bill:

Now that I have returned to Newport where I am busily engaged in writing some naval articles—one for Collier's Encyclopedia—I am, figuratively speaking, taking my pen in hand to write to you. In the first place, I want to tell you how much I enjoyed talking to you about yourself, your paper and your Country. All three have a great interest to me and to all the Bates family. I suppose it could be said that we have always thrown a solid block of votes in the direction of one William Knowland and—Why Not?

Men of your high ideals seem to be rather rare in politics. It is your very readiness to put yourself on the line as you did in your Polish Address in New York, for example, which makes you many friends but, at the same time, scares the politicians to death. Why we are afraid of the truth, I don't know. In this connection, I would like to say that last Sunday I sent a telegram to Ambassador Lodge at the UN as follows:

"I submit for your consideration the following--quote-- It seems quite likely that the USSR, having decided to wreck the Summit Conference, decided at the same time (a) to destroy the overpowering image which President Eisenhower, as a personification of the hopes and ideals of humanity has succeeded in a most fantastic way in building up throughout many areas, (b) to withdraw their invitation to him to visit the USSR for fear this same image might, likewise, have a fantastic success in Russia. They, therefore, unleashed a vituperative personal attack on the President employing every resource available, real or imagine, including the fortuitous U-2 incident, to accomplish these objectives."

I did this because I feel there is too much attention being placed on the fringes of the story, but not enough on the basic objectives of the enemy. Does anyone imagine that the Soviets would not have gone to the Summit if they thought they were going to win something?—Does anyone imagine that the leopard changes its spots?—Does anyone imagine that the Russians are honorable? Unfortunately, the answer is "Yes" to all of the above three. Many people think so because they have never studied the whole philosophy back, not only of Communism, but of the Russian Bear himself.

I could write you here and say why I think the Russians dropped the Summit. Certainly, they were looking for a means to get out of it as indicated at Baku. The spy plane was helpful as an out. My thought here is that the spy plane possibly crystallized the Russians' idea of quitting the Summit because the photographs, which the Russians likely found in the wreckage of the plane, showed with clarity the accuracy and excellence of the American photographs.

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However, I didn't write you to discuss this. I merely wanted to say again what a pleasure it was to see you and to say how much I appreciated the time you gave me and to reaffirm the friendship I, and I am quite sure all of my brothers, have for the whole Knowland clan.

It may be that although you would possibly like to be out of politics, the people won't let you. Cheap politicians sooner or later are found out even by the most ignorant public and good men are, sooner or later, recalled to power.

Best regards to you and your family I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Senator William Knowland
Oakland Tribune
Oakland, California

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 17, 1960

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

I have finally got around to answering your letter of April 19th. The reasons for my delay are many but suffice it to say that when your letter arrived in San Francisco, I was in Kansas and when it finally reached Kansas, I was in Newport and when it finally reached Newport, I was in Washington, D. C.

I must apologize for writing you a letter about Mr. Winslow and then failing to name him. I suppose that the Bohemian Club life is a little devastating on mental powers! I am still quite anxious to send a plant of Phal. Admiral Bates to Mr. Paul Winslow, Pebble Beach, California. I don't know how to name a price as you have a standard price for this orchid, I presume. However, I want to send him the best with the hope that the price is not much more than the prices you have charged me in the past for similar plants.

You will be interested to know that Mrs. Nathaniel Hill who visited you, I think in May, and purchased a number of your plants including the Admiral Bates has told me about it. She seems properly impressed. You will also be interested to know that Mrs. Hill is one of the Dorrance family who own the giant Campbell Company.

I also heard about the Admiral Bates orchid in Philadelphia from a friend of mine who happened to see it in your orchid collection. So you see I hope that you don't feel that you made any error in honoring me by naming your beautiful orchid after an old sailor. Many thanks for your help in all of this, I am

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Oscar M. Kirsch
2869 Oahu Avenue
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 17, 1960

Dear Mr. Horn:

This letter is to tell you how pleased I was to have been a guest at your commencement exercises. I was very impressed with the remarkable manner with which you handled this whole affair. It was very well organized and went through without a hitch. To a military man this was most notable. Evidently in addition to being an educator, you are quite an organizer.

As a naval officer of long experience and service and as a great friend of Vice Admiral Ingersoll, I was very pleased at your recognition of him by awarding him a Doctor of Laws Degree. All that you said about him is true and the Navy is losing a most eminent and active officer with his retirement at the end of this month.

The luncheon that you served after your commencement exercises was unusually good. I wondered if such excellent fare was usual in the Coed diningroom. If it is, I will change to a Coed and go there myself. I had the good fortune at this luncheon to sit at a table with your Dean of Horticulture, Dr. Wiley. It was a most delightful affair and I enjoyed it greatly.

After the graduation exercises at the Naval War College, I had a long talk at the President's House with Governor Del Sesto. I seized this opportunity to tell him of what I thought of your activities at Rhode Island University and extolled the whole commencement exercises with one exception. I told the Governor his address had been fine and to the point but that Dr. Hesburgh's address was too long, particularly for the humid day. I thought the Doctor's address otherwise was fitting but, once again, was filled with perhaps too much statistics. I enjoyed meeting Father Hesburgh since he is a most outstanding leader in the educational community.

The Governor asked me when I was going to receive an honor from Rhode Island University. I told him that I didn't know about that as that was the province of the trustees but that I had already been so honored by Long Island University with a Doctor of Letters.

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I hope to call you one of these days to make an appointment for you to speak at our Quindecin Club some time in the future, possibly in August. I certainly hope that you will be receptive as I could tell from your presence on the commencement platform that you are no mean orator.

Once again, with many thanks for the privilege of being present, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Dr. Francis H. Horn
President
Rhode Island University
Kingston, Rhode Island

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 20, 1960

Dear Judge:

I sent you the other day the copy of the letter which Admiral Burke sent me last year. I thought it was a fine letter and indicated a most friendly and understanding attitude on the part of the Admiral.

You will recall that Admiral Burke said that I had succeeded despite the road blocks that he had to throw in front of me. Admiral Nimitz told me that he didn't think that the road block was "budgetary" at all but that there certainly was another reason. I am afraid that someone sold Admiral Burke a bill of goods!

During Global Strategy Discussions, Mr. Hansen Baldwin, who delivered one of the principal addresses—and a very excellent one at that—came to me to ask some questions about Leyte Gulf. Someone else of considerable consequence in certain fields was there with him—name forgotten. I answered these questions and Hansen Baldwin then said, "it looks to me you're the only fellow that really knows what went on in that action and what you're telling me certainly makes sense". He then said that he was more than ever convinced that my study must be completed. I told him that Admiral Nimitz had said the same thing very recently and had, in addition, practically directed me to use his name in any way possible.

Hansen Baldwin then said that he thought that Admiral Nimitz should be requested to take up the matter himself, either personally or by letter with CNO as it might be difficult otherwise. I told him that you had an interest in this and were moving along slowly. Another New York gentlemen, Mr. Arthur Brooks Harlow of New York came to me also on this same matter. Mr. Harlow has been at the Naval War College on a number of occasions as a Global Strategy guest. He is very close with Mr. McElroy who was a Harvard classmate and is one of the founders of the Global Strategy Discussions at the National War College. He said that he thought that if we could handle this thing adequately, they could get Mr. Frank Barnett of the Richardson Foundation to finance it. Mr. Richardson has control of the income from \$25,000,000—so there you are.

With best regards, I am, as ever

Your old friend

Rear Admiral E. M. Eller
Chief of History, Main Navy
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

R.W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 24, 1960

Dear Herman:

This letter is to tell you how much I enjoyed being your luncheon guest at your vineyards several months ago. I had planned to write to you immediately after this luncheon but, unfortunately, I went on tour to Kansas, then to Washington, Philadelphia and New York and only now have finally been able to sit down and write to my friends in any detail.

First, I want to say I have always enjoyed the Wente wines and, therefore, it was a great pleasure to me to see your vineyards, your winery and your manner of life. It is all very happy and so long as your business keeps up and the Los Angeles buyers don't carry you out, you should enjoy one of the happiest lives among mortals.

Your brother couldn't have been kinder. He showed me and my family around very carefully and I am very anxious to ensure that he knows how much I appreciate his personal attentions. I thought I knew a lot about grapes but he showed me the various manners of grafting, etc. which seemed to improve the grape wines and took all of us on a wonderful tour of the winery proper. It was interesting to see how the art of making wines has changed.

In this connection, I was a guest at the commencement exercises at the Rhode Island University the other day where I sat at the luncheon table with the Dean of Horticulture, Dr. Wiley. I talked to him about your vineyards and about oenology. This was a word with which he was not familiar so he had to look it up in the dictionary. He discovered that the trouble is sometimes the word has an "o" and sometimes it commences with a "e". I enjoyed the luncheon greatly. To have some charming onion soup made by your own fair hands and then to enjoy many varieties of cheese with a number of varieties of your wonderful white wine is a privilege only reserved for the gods. So if I looked kind of shiny-faced there during the luncheon, it was because god-like qualities had descended upon me.

Your guests there, whose names I have forgotten were all very nice and I hope to run into them someday. Actually, I have a card from them but I seem to have misplaced it.

I am not going to the Bohemian Grove and I am not sure whether my brother, the doctor, is going to go or not. Frankly, it is almost too hard for me to go the Grove from here at this time of the year. I could go but it does not appeal to me suf-

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ficiently. The reason is that too many people only come to the Grove these days on weekends. In other words, the ease of transportation has permitted people to work all week in their offices and then come to the Grove for a couple of days and thence back again to their offices. This was not the basic idea of the Grove. The basic idea was to be there for two weeks commencing with the cremation of care and to drop all care.

I do want to go to the Grove again and probably next year I shall go to stay the full two weeks. By doing this I can, I think, achieve the feeling of good will which comes to those who live among the trees among many free men for a reasonable part of the time.

Please thank your brother for me and tell him how much I appreciated everything he did. The Wente brothers are a great pair!

When you come this way, for Heaven's sake let me know about it so that I can see you and do something for you.

What did Ed MacIlwane think of the card I left for him. I haven't seen him so far this summer, which is surprisingly, as he generally spends his summers here in Newport.

With best regards and many thanks, I am

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Herman Wente
Wente Vineyards
Livermore, California

0488

Mr & Mrs Forsyth Wickes

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 24, 1960

I have been wanting to write to you for some time but in view of my numerous limited travels, i.e. I just now returned from Philadelphia and New York, I haven't been able to really sit down, as it were, and tell you of what is going on. In the first place, I want to say that I went to California before Christmas and remained out there until May.

While there, I wandered about spending about three weeks in San Francisco, about the same amount in Sacramento, two weeks at Squaw Valley for the Winter Olympics which I found very interesting and, shall we say, on occasions quite thrilling, two weeks in Pebble Beach, about a week in the San Diego area, three weeks in Mexico—that is, the lower end of Baja California—and two weeks in Salina, Kansas where I was a guest of the Air Force, so you can see that I was pretty busy in the western area and enjoyed it thoroughly. In fact, believe it or not, I lost about ten pounds. People can still recognize me but since Cyril Judge has lost at least forty pounds, it has taken all of us some time to get accustomed to his new contours.

Newport is beginning to bloom insofar as your many friends are concerned. The principal event of this weekend is the marriage of Sheila Ryan to a young Mr. Neville. The wedding reception will take place at Vancluse Farm and all of your friends will, of course, be there. Tonight I am dining with Cynthia Carey who will have the Wideners as her guest of honor. In this connection, the Wideners are not only here sort of supervising this whole deal but they are giving a large party at the Clambake Club for the youngsters. All of this is very nice indeed and I am sure that the whole wedding will be very charming and up to the Ryan standards.

A lot of people seem to be coming up here for this wedding and on Saturday night I am a guest of the Barclay Douglasses who will have certain relatives of the Ryan family as their guests also. You see, Diana Ryan was married at first to a Davies and second to Ryan. One of her daughters by Davies is married to Peter Reed. The other, Sandra, is unmarried. Sheila is her eldest daughter by George Ryan. So this wedding can be quite an affair.

The usual Fourth of July Clambake will be given at the Clambake Club for the members of the Club. On that evening, Daisey Bruguere is giving a large dinner for her guests and asked Mr.

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and Mrs. Beckemeyer of Peru. I think you know them both and as they have been up here on many occasions. The preceding night the Persifor Frazers are giving a party for the same couple. There are other affairs in between but none quite as large as the ones above mentioned. I have gone into a little detail on this so you will get a feeling of Newport at this time.

The weather in Newport has been perfectly splendid; although the sky overhead today is a little cloudy, the weather continues fine. Last year, the weather was awfully bad and we had fog and rain throughout the whole summer, so that Bailey's Beach was very much in the ~~RED~~ and everybody had to make good the loss.

Enough for Newport. I hope that you are both enjoying yourselves in your famous Chateau. I say famous advisedly because everybody here who has had the good fortune to be your guests speaks most movingly about it. I know of course you both have an affection for it which makes it much more homey than it might be if it were merely a place in the country.

France seems to be improving greatly in the public eye. This is of course because of General De Gaulle's success in many ways in restoring part of the "glory which was France" and the world is happy about it. Our press today is filled with hope that the Algerian situation is near settlement even though there are some very strong Rightist elements which oppose most of General De Gaulle's policies in this regard.

I suppose what went on in the Far East with General Eisenhower has caused as much concern in France as it did here. Very frankly, I am one of those who insisted that once the President had committed himself to go, he could not back out. The question of "face" in the Far East is a very important item in the power struggles and people and nations are very reluctant to allow themselves to be put in the position of what they might term dishonor; ~~and~~ it is *therefore* customary among certain peoples when they find themselves in such a position to perform hari kari. In this connection, you will remember that the Vice President of Korea with the overthrowing of President Rhee not only committed suicide for himself, but his wife and his children as well.

Therefore with this thought in view, it became necessary for the President to continue going there and force Japan to withdraw their invitation, thus saving what we might term Mr. Eisenhower's face. This is exactly the way it panned out and despite what any of the Leftist may say, Mr. Eisenhower came out with considerable credit on the gallant side. Naturally the United States suffered a serious setback in the field of world opinion and there is no use downgrading it. However, the President insists that his trip to the Far East was a great success overall. We won't know how much a success until he makes his speech on this subject upon his return here, which should be next week.

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And now I want to tell you a couple of jokes that will give you a laugh I hope and make it possible for you to read even the bad news and enjoy it.

The first joke is about Elsie the waitress who persisted in breaking crockery. She got so bad in her breakage that the manager sent for her and said "Elsie, I am sorry to say this to you but you have got to stop breaking crockery or I will have to let you go". To this, Elsie replied she was merely having some bad luck and she would try not to let it occur any more. The manager said, "All right Elsie you have heard what I have said; you better not break any more crockery or you are out of a job!" With that, Elsie flounced out and promptly knocked over a glass bowl of lump sugar. The bowl hit the floor with a crash. Elsie leaned down quickly, grasped the sugar lumps and put them in her bodice, at the same time kicking the broken glass out of the way. The manager came out and said, "Elsie, did you break something?". She replied no, she was banging some of the glasses together. The manager then apologized saying he was so worried about the breakage that he suspected every sound. The manager then returned to his office. A male friend of Elsie's came in and asked for a cup of coffee. Elsie placed the cup of coffee in front of him and looking at him, asked "Do you wish some sugar?". To this, the man said yes. Elsie then put her hand in her bodice and produce a lump of sugar which she proceeded to put into the cup. The man looked startled. He looked even more startled when Elsie asked, "Would you like some cream, too?". The man looked at her and said, "You wouldn't dare!"

Another story is the story of the American woman in Paris who hearing that a famous portrait painter was there called him and asked him to paint her. The artist happily agreed and so she went over and arranged for her first sitting. After a few sittings, she discovered that the artist was doing a wonderful job. She then said to him, "I can't stay here as I am very busy touring Europe. You will have to paint me from your sketches and from what you remember of me". The artist said that he could do that. The lady then said I have only one request and that is that you paint me with sympathy. The artist said he would do that. The lady then told him to ship the completed portrait to an address in the States, which she gave him. Upon the lady's return to her home in the States, she discovered the portrait. She immediately thought of an unveiling party and invited as many friends as she could properly fit in her house to the unveiling. Unfortunately, she did not look at the portrait before this event. After the guest had a lot to drink, she unveiled the portrait. It was a beautiful portrait but alas there was a painting of a man's arm reaching over her shoulder and into her bodice. The guests all laughed uproariously but she was furious. She called Paris and, fortunately, got the artist on the telephone. She asked him how it happened that he could have painted her as he did and asked what the man's arm was doing over her shoulder and into her bodice. The artist said "but you asked me to paint it this

way". She said, "I did not, I only asked you to paint me with sympathy". The artist said, "Ah, that was it; being French I did not know quite what sympathy meant in English so I looked it up in the English dictionary and there I found that it meant—I'a fellow feeling in one's bosom'".

With best regards and hope all is well with you I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

P.S. The daughter of the Comte de Paris (22 years old) is also to be here over the 4th of July.

Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth Wickes
Chateau Courtmulins
Gaillon, Eure
France

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28 June 1960
12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

Vice Admiral S. H. INGERSOLL
U. S. Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Slim:

Since the completion of the Global Strategy Discussions, I have been thinking about them and have been formulating in my mind certain thoughts thereon which follow. However, before doing so, I desire to thank you for the privilege of being a guest and to tell you, at the same time, of my feeling that the Discussions were well handled and up to the high standards of the best of the previous year.

My comments follow:

a. Preliminary Information.

Based on my own material I would say that the amount of preliminary information provided was sufficiently limited as to make it a simple matter to read it. But I doubt greatly whether many of the civilian GSD members did so, for much of their comments, and many of their questions, indicated a purely local approach. I don't know what can be done about this, but probably little.

b. Committee 7:

This was my committee which had, as its moderator, Colonel J. E. RENTSCH, USMC who proved to be splendid in this assignment. Colonel RENTSCH moderated his committee in a manner quite different from that of Colonel R. L. STALLINGS, USMC in the previous year but he was equally effective and on occasions even more so. This was because Colonel RENTSCH employed a "guided" approach to the subject matter of the Discussions rather than the open approach employed by Colonel STALLINGS.

Since these two methods are discussed under paragraph "(f) Basic Data", this matter will not be expanded on at this point.

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The recorder of the committee, Lieutenant Commander J. H. FOXGROVER, USN was unusually efficient and produced each day a daily summary which presented the opinion of the committee in language (and understanding) superior to that employed in the day's meetings. The twenty members of the committee (four civilians -- although but three of them were present most of the time -- four reserve officers, one staff officer and the eleven students) provided a broad cross section of the more intelligent American public, and most of them helped heartily to maintain the interest of the committee in the subject matter.

Needless to say, I enjoyed my committee. It operated with considerable good will and, although there were exchanges which were sometimes more than mere banter, the general result was quite effective.

As usual, the civilian members presented new points which were often at variance with what might be termed "the more orthodox views", but this contributed greatly towards the successful results achieved. Actually, the civilians in my committee were more outspoken in their comments than had been the case in the previous year.

Once again I should like to reaffirm my comment of last year to the effect that "I would not change the committee system, nor would I have more than four civilians in any committee". This latter thought stems from the fact that (a) the reserve officers provide an additional civilian source and (b) twenty to twenty-one members seem to be a proper working number for a committee. (Surprisingly enough, this number is Parkinson's upper limit for group effectiveness).

c. Plenary Session

(1) The plenary session was a considerable improvement over last years in that queries from the audience were permitted insofar as the two committee presentations were concerned. However, since the individual presentations which followed were not subject to query, I feel that this was unwise and I, therefore, recommend that, in the future, all presentations, whether by committee or by individuals, be subject to challenge, thus awakening the thought processes of the listeners to the disagreements.

(2) I thought that Committee 15's presentation was excellent; that of Committee 4, at the best, only fair. The discussion on the rats while important was too long and confusing. The idea of presenting the Committee views from the viewpoint of the "President of the U. S. " was novel, but some of the panel were inadequately prepared.

I have wondered whether next year one of the committee's chosen might not approach the subject from the viewpoint of the President and his cabinet, i. e. State, Defense, Treasury. In this case the committee members should be notified of their selection so that they might better prepare their presentation.

d. Entertainment Schedule.

(1) This schedule was superior to anything that the College has had so far. I think, and this viewpoint represents practically all of the participants, that the cocktail parties and lunches which you gave were superb in bringing the vistsors together.

(2) This year's practice of insisting that most of the committee's lunch in the Commissioned Officers Mess (Open) rather than lunching elsewhere was, in general, quite effective. I feel sure that many of the civilian guests met one another in this fashion who might otherwise not have met at all.

(3) The stopping of the Thursday night ball at 0030 was a great success.

e. I think that all five lectures (Ingersoll, Dulles, Baldwin, Wright, Burke) were very well received, and provided a fine background for the dally discussions. The preliminary remarks of the Chief of Staff were also well received. In fact, all addresses were very much to the point, were of high caliber and were well delivered.

f. Basic Data.

(1) As pointed out earlier in this letter, the moderator of my committee moderated in a manner quite different from that of the previous years. My moderator provided a broad agenda for each day's discussions, a copy of which was given to each participant with, on occasions, a definition (such as "cold war") which could be "kicked around". In addition each day the moderator had one of the students, who had been alerted previously, deliver a ten minute oral presentation (using blackboard as necessary) on the subject matter of that day's agenda. This tended to prevent vague wanderings by various committee members, although such wanderings did occur.

Last year, if I remember correctly, the moderator did not provide a written agenda but instead he announced the subject matter to be discussed. This was effective because the moderator himself was effective, but as stated earlier, I do not believe that it was as effective overall as was Colonel RENTSCH's system.

(3) At the end of each day and sometimes once or twice during the day Committee 14 prepared a summary of the discussions as of that moment. A copy of each summary was made available to each member of the committee as it was completed. It was then reviewed for possible improvement. It was not made available to other committees or to the Naval War College.

Last year I recommended "that all committees be directed to provide such daily summaries and further that a copy of each such summary be made available to the Naval War College. This would provide a means of indicating:

(a) Rate of progress of each committee.

(b) Thought processes of each committee.

(c) Relative competency of each committee.

and would assist the staff moderator in determining which committees, if any, required assistance and which were best suited to appear in the "Plenary Session".

(4) Finally I should like to recommend that the civilian guests be advised as to the expectation of the College that they speak up and be heard. This recommendation springs from the following recommendation to me from Mr. John J. Scott, General Counsel of the Socony Mobil Oil Company, Inc. of New York who was a member of my section for one day.

"One thought has occurred to me since our closing conversation at Newport. Many of the businessmen who attended probably expected that their role during the week would be largely as listeners. That certainly was my impression even if my subsequent volubility didn't bear that out. But you made a good point, it seemed to me, when you explained that one of the purposes of the conference is to expose military officers to business executives from various walks of life and to get their reactions to many of the problems with which the military are concerned. Looking at it in this light, it seems to me that the civilians have almost an obligation to perform and contribute as well as they can under the circumstances. I wasn't there the first day and this may well have been made amply clear by the section leaders. If not, positive encouragement from the section leader could go a long way to overcome any reluctance to speak up and be heard from on the part of any of the civilian participants."

(5) Final Remarks.

I find the GSD very valuable indeed and feel strongly that they should be continued from year to year. In this view I am supported by Admiral Richard L. Conolly, USN (Ret.) who was a guest at this years discussions. Admiral Conolly stated to me recently that he had had a most rewarding experience in his committee. (He was absent from the Plenary Session)

R. W. BATES

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 6, 1960

Dear Governor:

This letter is to thank you primarily for inviting me to join up with the Rhode Island delegation at the Republican Convention in Chicago. I really enjoyed the experience and, once I had obtained a good seat, I also enjoyed the Convention. Unfortunately my first seat, which was in the "Q" Section, was behind one of those TV stands so that it was next to impossible to see adequately. In addition, the loud speakers were overhead and, on occasions, the din was terrific. So you can readily appreciate what a delight it was to sit, as I finally did, in the "O" Section close behind the Nixon family.

I thought that the members of your delegation were very considerate. I realized that in their minds I was some sort of a maverick and was, in a way perhaps, a nuisance but they were friendly enough. Colonel Wolf and Mr. Bennett of your Staff were especially thoughtful.

Since my return to Newport, I have learned that many of my friends were following the Convention on TV very assiduously and watched you; so most of them heard your speech seconding Mr. Nixon and, those who did, commented most favorably on it.

I certainly enjoyed sitting with Mrs. Del Sesto Thursday evening. As you know, I arranged for NBC, CBS and one of the local stations to televise her when you were on the platform seconding Mr. Nixon. I am glad to know that her TV picture was broadcast and was very effective. Perhaps you can obtain the film from NBC as it might be useful to show in the Rhode Island theaters during your campaign.

I also want to thank you for your invitation to the dinner which you gave Thursday evening at the Clambake Club for the White House Staff, and to tell you of my great regret that I could not remain the entire time. However, I am glad to say that I hear from all sources that everything proceeded admirably. I hope that you are as happy as the Club is over its clear success. You are a fine host and you have a devoted naval aide in Commander Gosling who, with his charming wife, worked long and hard to achieve the above success.

0498

Once again, let me thank you for both invitations as, in each case, I certainly had a most interesting, happy and informative time.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Governor Christopher Del Sesto
State House
Providence, Rhode Island

0499

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 6, 1960

Dear Jerry:

This letter is to thank you and through you, your Mrs. Joan MacDonald, for the prompt and efficient manner with which your office handled my insurance claim. If you will recall, some months ago I had the unusual and unfortunate experience of having my car window (front) broken by collision with a widely aimed golf ball when passing by a Rhode Island golf course.

I reported my damage to Mrs. MacDonald who made immediate and effective arrangements to have the window replaced, with the result that my car was repaired in one day. During the time the car was being repaired, the repair firm—the Newport Plate & Mirror Glass Company—loaned me their spare automobile at no cost.

Since such service seems rare in the annals of the insurance and automobile field, it gives me great pleasure to comment so favorably thereon.

With many thanks, I am

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Francis G. Dwyer
Gustave J. S. White Co., Inc.
37 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, Rhode Island

0500

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 6, 1960

Dear Mayor:

This letter, although somewhat belated, is to thank you and, through you, the Newport City Council for making me an Honorary Citizen of Newport, Rhode Island.

Needless to say, I was highly gratified and honored by this evidence of your approval of my activities in this area. I want to assure you that I hope to continue to work for the best interests of the people of Newport.

With many thanks, I am

Sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mayor James L. Maher
Newport City Hall
Newport, Rhode Island

0501

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 6, 1960

Dear Howard:

This letter is to inform you that I appreciate having received your letter relative to anti-submarine concepts. I had the pleasure of showing it to the President of the Naval War College, now Vice Admiral Austin, and also to the head of the Advanced Plans Group, Rear Admiral Edwin Hooper. Both of them were very interested in it. I think they thought it was a little bit advanced and that it would not be too easy to accomplish, but I wanted to show them that you fellows were thinking down there even though perhaps you weren't supposed to. I am enclosing a copy of what I wrote on Naval Strategy for Collier's Encyclopedia and while you might have written it a different way, it met with the approval of all the top people at the College. One of the reviewers was the military editor for another encyclopedia and he told me he went along with everything. If you don't like it, show me why and perhaps someday we can rewrite it.

I am hoping that our good friend, Roy Belcher, gets promoted this time. I received a very fine letter from Captain Winters of the FDR, in which he said Belcher had done a tremendous job and he had the pleasure of writing him three of what he termed outstanding fitness reports. Captain Winters seemed to think that he would be promoted this time, particularly because last time he was passed on the lack of sea service.

Let me wish you and your family all happiness and let me thank you again for your kindness in helping me in the encyclopedia matter.

For your information, I went out to Chicago as a representative from Rhode Island and had a charming time, as it were. At the convention, that is the National Republican Convention in Chicago, it was very well handled—handled, I think, with distinction whereas the Democratic mess belonged in a three-ring circus. The difference is very important because the proceedings were all televised and will be shown throughout the world. Americans understand what we do and how a lot of it is hokus pokus but foreigners don't—so I am sure the Republican convention will lend credit to our nation.

With best regards, I am

As ever,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Commander Howard Cole, USN
3341 Riviera Drive
Key West, Florida

0502

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 6, 1960

Dear Joe:

Thank you very much for your card of inquiry as to why I was not at the Bohemian Grove. The answer is simple. I was busy writing an article for Collier's Encyclopedia and I was planning to attend the Republican National Convention as a representative of Rhode Island. I attended the convention which I enjoyed greatly and I have completed the article for the Encyclopedia so now I am a little more free than heretofore, although my social activities are a little wearing.

I discovered that there is considerable pressure from various sources to reopen my study on the battle for Leyte Gulf and complete them. I talked about it yesterday with the new president of the War College, Vice Admiral Austin and we are going to talk about it again in a day or so. Since he is a very close friend of Admiral Burke—they both made their reps at the same time in the Solomon Island destroyer actions—they are more than friendly.

I am, in general, in fine shape although the humidity in the last few days has been a little trying.

Did you hear that because of the dead sea scrolls, they are having to change the bible a little? I understand that they are even having to change the book of Genesis because they have discovered that the trouble in the Garden of Eden was not occasioned by the apple in the tree but rather by the ~~pear~~ (pear) on the ground.

Give my best to your beloved wife and say hello to your secretary for me. I hope to be out there someday but probably not before Christmas. Meanwhile, thanks for your query and please clear me with my friends. By the way, before I close, I want to say I had a little talk with President Eisenhower the other day and told him we should not be in Newport but should be at the Grove. The President said "Oh, yes, I wanted to be there this year but I couldn't go because they are working me to death."

0503

Last night the Governor of Rhode Island gave a party for the White House Staff at the Clambake Club (number of guests - 182) and Barbara Eisenhower, the daughter-in-law of the President, asked me quite abit about the Bohemian Grove. Evidently, the President likes it.

Once again, with best wishes, I am

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Captain J. Joseph Sullivan USNR
111 Sutter's Street
San Francisco, California

0504

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 26, 1960

Dear Roger:

I have been invited to two weddings and, therefore, I wish to send two gifts, each of approximately \$25.00. One invitation is from the Archbold van Beurens for their daughter Marilla Davenport and the other is from the Bayard Ewings for the marriage of their daughter Linda to Bob Leeson's son, Richmond. Might I ask you to have the kindness of picking out suitable wedding gifts and sending them as follows:

Miss Marilla Davenport van Beuren
"Gray Craig"
Newport, Rhode Island

Miss Linda Livingston Ewing
Ives Road
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

I am enclosing two cards which can be used for the above.

Miss van Beuren's is on the third of September and Miss Ewing's is on the tenth of September. I would appreciate both gifts being sent rather early.

I want to thank you personally for your kindness in handling that cigarette box which we presented to Mrs. Theodore Grosvenor. The box made an enormous hit and the engraving was beautifully done. Many thanks to your designers and to your engravings.

I do hope that you will come down this way before too long as the Clambake, of which I am the Chairman of the House Committee, is in wonderful shape and the food, according to one of the members last night, has never been better.

With best regards and many thanks, I am

Sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Roger Hallowell, President
Reed & Barton
Taunton, Massachusetts

0505

12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 29, 1960

Dear Mr. Simonds:

I want to thank you very much for the \$10.00 check which you presented to the Boys Club via me. However, I am a little unhappy about the whole affair as it would seem to have been a comedy of errors which ended up with you being so charitable. For your information, I encountered Mr. Trott at the Registry of Motor Vehicles office here in Newport and suggested to him that I advertise in the Newport Daily News extolling the Boston Pops concert.

He suggested that I call Mr. Evans, which I did. Mr. Evans said they did not approve of that type of advertising now and suggested I call you. I called you and it was my understanding that you wished me to write you a letter explaining the situation. I did so and found, to my surprise, that this was not really expected and that your firm did not choose to make a donation.

The interesting part of this whole unhappy affair is that everybody referred to everyone else with the result that in the end, one Philip B. Simonds, Jr. made good for all. For this I give you thanks and my apologies.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Philip B. Simonds, Jr.
Vice President
Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company
15 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island

0506

12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 31, 1960

Dear Ted:

During the past little while, I have received several cards from you from various places which showed you are still on the go. I think on the last card you were enroute to Lake Placid.

I hope that all this means you are in fine shape and enjoying the long life which the Creator has seen fit to give to you. If this seems to bother you, don't forget that we have already passed the average living age of our contemporaries.

I wanted to talk to you here for a moment about your bull dog. Admiral Ingersoll has a charming bitch who is less than a year old but seems in the mood, on occasions, for off-spring. This bitch has a background of many blue ribbons and it seems to me that since your dog has a similar brilliant background, if we could merge the two or, as they say here, marry them, we might have some pups that will become, in fact, world champions. If you have any interest in this matter, I would appreciate your conveying it to me so that I can notify Admiral Ingersoll who, by the way, is temporarily on duty in Washington. In commenting on this bitch, I want to say that she is very adventurous and has a great tendency to disappear. In fact the other day, she appeared in the Reading Room and caused consternation and delight. I claim the reason she went there was that she knew there were so many males there. I also want you to know that when I was speaking to Admiral Ingersoll of this prospective marriage, she looked up at me with happiness and comprehension, so I think I have already paved the way for your bull dog.

Things are going along fine here with me. I have just handled most of the publicity for the Newport Music Festival which, this year, was Arthur Fiedler's Boston Pops and we drew about 3000 people of all kinds.

I am now returning to my usual line of endeavor, which is to write matters relating to the Naval Establishment and to study them.

0507

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health. As for myself, I am fine and Dr. Sprague in Boston gave me such a fine report the other day that all of the charmers in this office have been eyeing me differently.

With best regards, I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Edward Breed
165 West School Lane
Germantown, Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

0508

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
August 31, 1960

Dear Judge:

I don't want you to think I have forgotten about you or the project we both have in view. But with the heavy heat and humidity we have had for the past month, I thought it best not to take it up very seriously with Admiral Austin although I have put the bee in his bonnet.

In a few days it is my plan to discuss with him what I want to do, to quote Admiral Nimitz, Admiral Carney and you, and to see if he has any recommendations in the matter.

Certainly within the next month or so, I plan to take the matter up with one of the Foundations, and with the hope that with the backing of the High Command, as it were, we will be able to produce a satisfactory result.

Admiral Austin is a very fine gentleman and is moving in rapidly to the functions of the President. He is as different from Admiral Ingersoll as ABC is from XYZ. But we needed Ingersoll and we need Austin. I think that whereas we require continuity of effort in the War College, the method of accomplishment is the function of the Commander. Ingersoll was, essentially, a commander-in-chief of the fleet type and seemed more interested in getting things reorganized on a sound basis than on the planning level. Admiral Austin certainly is interested in the planning level and has talked to both Eccles and me about it. I have done my best to introduce him in Newport in a quiet way as he is new at the College, but I think he will carve his way himself on the personal charm which he and his wife both display.

If you have any thoughts on any of these matters, I would appreciate your writing me right away unless I move out of phase with the basic concepts.

With best regards, I am

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Rear Admiral E. M. Eller
Chief of History, Main Navy
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

0509

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
September 9, 1960

Dear Joe:

I think that I left my personal file with your secretary, Shirley, and I would appreciate it very much if you ask her if she has it and if she does, ask her to please forward it to me here at the above address. I have been asked for some information and I know that it is in that collection.

Things have been going along very well with me here. I have been very busy in local matters as well as in others. I attended Global Strategy at the War College. I attended a class reunion at Annapolis. I handled the publicity for the Newport Music Festival, which is quite a thing. I have had my hand in too many pots and I am now ready to relax, if anyone lets me. Terrible thing about life is this—if you do anything well, they keep hammering at you to help them out. The City of Newport has made me an honorary citizen and the Kiwanis have given me a Recognition. I also, as you know, attended the Republican National Convention where I sat near the Vice President's family—my seat was so good I was glad I had turned down being a delegate. Outside of this, there is little to report.

The new president of the War College, Admiral Austin, is fine and I am sure the College will prosper under him. We have certainly had different kinds of presidents but I would say Austin is as near McCormick as is humanly possible. Their training, their background, their attitude, their quiet nature are similar. Austin is equally social but doesn't play cards or anything which reduces his position in the community—that is the Bellevue Avenue Community which likes card players.

I am looking forward to going to Canada or somewhere pretty soon but when, I don't know. I also expect to be painted by your friend Fitzgerald who is going to paint the President of the War College. This I arranged, as usual. What he is going to charge me for this painting, I don't know. He offered to do it for nothing but I told him I couldn't face this, so I will pay him something—I hope not too much.

I hope things are going well with you out there in California. Things are fine here. We have the harbor covered with oil from a civilian tanker which ran aground and, fortunately for the first time in history, the Navy is not to blame. Many of the beaches are

0510

dead for the summer and many people are irritated. My complaint is that having expected such an oil problem over many years, there were no preparations made in advance for handling such a development. Hence we now face long delays. Providence and Newport need Bates and Sullivan as intelligence advisors. Meanwhile, the oil is increasing its damaging effects everywhere.

With best regards to you and to your beloved wife and to Shirley I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Captain J. Joseph Sullivan USNR
111 Sutter's Street
San Francisco, California

0511

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
September 9, 1960

Dear Howard:

No one could have been more startled the other day when I received a call from the War College informing me that the new promotion list for captains had been published. The reason the College called me was to advise me that Roy Belcher had been selected which, of course, was very gratifying. The facts in his case were simple—he had a fine record but little sea duty and it became necessary to get him to sea and to keep him there. My fear had been that once he got passed over, Captain Winters would call for a relief. Fortunately, he did not do this but instead made every effort to help Belcher with the sea-going Admirals, while I took action in the Washington Admirals. It is quite proper that he should have been selected and I am happy about it.

The Naval War College also informed me that they thought you had been passed over. I said "I doubt this because so far as I know, Cole was not expecting to come up at this time." They said they were not sure either but come on over and they would have the book properly marked up so I could see. Sure enough there was no check before Howard Cole. This, once again, is an enormous disappointment to me. I thought from what you told me, that you had a very fine record and that having cleared up that early affair, your record was now, so far as you knew, tops! I felt that it was also and I went out of my way at the War College to try and give you a fitness report which indicated clearly your capabilities.

I have been trying to talk this over with people that might have some knowledge, one of whom is Ingersoll. I pointed out to Admiral Ingersoll that you probably were in the same category as Roy Belcher in that you had had insufficient sea duty in recent years. I pointed out that you had three years at the Naval War College, one year in Iceland and now two more years on shore duty. The Admiral said that could be it, but that I must not overlook that your duty on Iceland counted as sea duty. I replied that this is sheer undiluted poppycock because being on shore on a foreign strand is not the same as standing in the bridge of a ship, and that naval officers were expected to be at sea. One of these days I will go to BuPers and I will talk to Smedberg and we will have this out. Insofar as possible, I want to learn the facts in your case as well as I did with Belcher. My guess is that you are the victim of too much shore duty and you must go to sea immediately in a top commander billet. There is no question about your ability. Everyone has the highest regard for you and I am sure that your failure of promotion was more astonishing than was Roy's.

I know that the Class of '42 was kicked pretty hard but that was no excuse for missing you. I realize that you have one noticeable weakness—a tendency to get into too many things at the same time. That was your problem with me and I understood it and respected it but hollered in a nice way, I hope, about it. I felt when you left the War College that you were able to continue along the line of the objective.

0512

Your letters to me about your work down there shows that you are still bright, alert and on the job in a worthwhile way. I shall be very unhappy if I find that your failure to be promoted is based on something other than a lack of sea duty, and I shall be very surprised. Please write to me right away and tell me what you know about it, as I do not wish to have an officer of your quality lost to the service.

Selection is sometimes fair and sometimes unfair and, in this case, with your Board seems to have been both. I have heard officers speak of some officers who were promoted that they thought should not have been, and others passed over they thought should have been promoted. So there you are—you're damned if you do and damned if you don't, but anyone is damned who has not been at sea sufficiently to indicate his ability to command. This makes it easy for the selection board to pass over able officers, even though the fault was not theirs.

Give my warmest regards to your fine family and, once again, please reply shortly. With best regards I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Commander Howard Cole, USN
3341 Riviera Drive
Key West, Florida

0513

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
September 9, 1960

New Begins Book Store
Post Street
San Francisco, California

Gentlemen:

It is my understanding that Mr.
Felix Frankfurter, Justice of the Supreme
Bench of the United States, has written
his autobiography or someone has written
an autobiography of him.

Please send me a copy of this
book to my Newport address given above.

Hope all is well with New Begins!

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

0514

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
September 29, 1960

Dear Roy:

I received your letter of September 22nd with mixed emotions. I suppose it is good for me to get bawled out in a nice way by one of my former officers and I would say that your criticism is well taken. However, I worked very hard to ensure that you had a fair chance for promotion.

I went to Washington and I discussed the matter with the personnel section and mentioned it to a number of competent admirals and I wrote the Captain of your ship. I was interested, first, in satisfying myself that your record was worthy of your promotion and, secondly, that this fact became known to others. After finding out that your record was in the top 6 per cent of your group, I wanted to make sure that you were not relieved as executive officer of the FDR and this I was guaranteed. My final letter to Captain Winters was to ensure that the fact you were coming up again had not been forgotten by him and, thereby, to ensure that your fitness reports were of the highest quality. For your information, Captain Winters wrote me that he thought you would be promoted because your work with him had been tip-top and he would give you tip-top fitness reports. How right I was, was proved by the performance of the last Board.

The fact that I haven't written to you has nothing to do with the case. I wanted to write to you but I have been too busy writing the Naval Institute, running the Clambake Club, lecturing at the War College and being at the Republican Convention in Chicago as a representative of Rhode Island--all of these factors denied me the chance to sit down and dictate. However, I finished my last talk Tuesday and think I will be fairly free for the immediate future.

Therefore, I desire at this point to commend you for the wonderful work you put in under difficult conditions, which resulted in your being selected to promotion to Captain. The situation you were in was very difficult and you handled yourself with distinction. I am happy for your beloved wife and family, all of whom without doubt took your blow in characteristic fashion and are now accepting your vindication with cheers. Give Lorene my very best.

I have just now dictated a letter to Howard Cole. I had no idea he was coming up for promotion at this time or I might have ensured that he make it. My job now is to endeavor to straighten this out. He has written to me about it and attributes it to something that happened sometime ago with one of his Captains. I don't think so although, honestly, I don't know. When I get to Washington

0515

and discuss the matter with BuPers, as I did your case, I may be able to find the truth. My guess, though, is this! Howard spent three years at the Naval War College, one in Iceland and two ashore down there in Key West. While it is true that the year in Iceland counts as sea duty, you and I both know that is purely figurative--he has to go to sea on a ship.

So my job now will be to discover, if possible, what can be done. Your case was much easier than Howard's because you are not provocative. Unfortunately, our good friend Howard is and it may be that somebody somewhere felt that it would be easier to get on with someone less provocative. I have always been this way in my own life--the word "provocative" isn't what I'm after but I am sure you will be able to choose the word that has presently eluded me. The Navy can't afford to lose Howard Cole as he has a fine mind, is able to analyze well and is able to write well. He is creative and is willing to express his views thereon. Captain Liddell-Hart, the British writer, says that prophets must exist but in the end they are stoned to death. I, however, choose to be in that field as that is the way I am made and I am sure that Howard feels the same. You can see it, in part, in the fact that he is so strong for his church and is constantly creating thoughts towards its betterment. I am not opposed to this but men who do these things become observed and sometimes criticized. I am presently in Newport where I have been, as you can see, for some time and I plan to remain here for the present.

I am not particularly impressed with that job that you are getting in the NOB, Norfolk. It may be a good job but I sort of doubt it. I suggest that you look into this to see what it embodies and what its future is for you. You don't have to take it if you don't want to. If you will recollect, Zirkle presented you with a similar problem and finally I got Zirkle's orders changed so that he is now on the Staff in the Western Pacific and has done very well. I think you should have a job of that kind, at least, probably right there in Norfolk with the Commander-in-Chief.

Take care of yourself and congratulations.

Sincerely, your old friend

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Commander Roy Belcher, Jr.
106 53rd Street
Virginia Beach, Virginia

0516

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
September 29, 1960

Dear Count:

I want to thank you very much for the privilege of addressing your students as I did Tuesday on the subject of Command Decision. It is the subject which is very dear to my heart because, as I stated on the platform in a rather mild way but which I feel very strongly in fact, my experiences with the command level in the Pacific War were not all commendatory to the educational system of the Navy. I found too many officers from Captain up who had fine reputations as doers and many wore decorations, but few of them were able to plan. That is, to plan either for long range or short range operations. I can list many of these with no effort whatsoever and I shall be very happy to do so.

I feel that the Naval War College, and other colleges with similar objectives, can accomplish a great deal in improving this situation. I also feel—and this is not said in a perfunctory way—I also feel that you will, in your years here as President of the College, go a long way in producing graduates of considerable merit. For that reason, I consider that your service as President of the Naval War College will be your most valuable service to your country.

I have had in recent years many officers come to me after I had made one of these addresses and say that they needed more of them and, in fact, since I spoke Tuesday, the same type of comment has appeared. I am not suggesting that I should make any more presentations but I do think that to look into this field might be profitable.

As I said Wednesday, I sincerely regret that my section was closed. The reason I have this regret is that there are many lessons which will flow out of the Battle of Leyte which will be helpful in our future experience. Because I suspected that my section might be folded before I had completed the books, I emphasized battle lessons in the last three volumes. However, these are not the broad lessons for the future so much as important guides to an understanding of the past. When I was out on the Coast, Admiral Nimitz was very incensed that the section was closed and said that, in his opinion, it must be reopened. I don't know how you feel about this and I am doubtful whether I shall discuss it with you of my own initiative.

Once again, let me thank you for the privilege of addressing your students and let me say how happy I am that this College, to which I gave over 15 years of my existence, is headed by such an able gentleman as yourself.

Very sincerely yours,

Vice Admiral Bernard L. Austin
President, Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

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